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YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Agenda item 4

PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Observations received from Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the resolution adopted by the Committee at its fifth meeting on 10 July 1964 (ST/SG/AC.5/L.2 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General invited the States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, and the interested non-governmental organizations having consultative status to offer, not later than 15 September 1964, their suggestions and proposals for the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights; and communicated to them for their information a working paper on this subject (ST/SG/AC.5/3) prepared by the Chairman of the Committee in collaboration with the other officers, and the summary records of the meetings of the Committee.

The observations received by the Secretary-General up to 15 September 1964 are presented in this memorandum.

PART I

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]
20 August 1964

The Republic of Argentina has given practical evidence of its adherence to the Purpose enunciated in Article 1, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Charter - namely, "to achieve international co-operation" with a view to "promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion" - and of its strong support for all the efforts which the United Nations is making in this direction.

As a logical outcome of this attitude, it firmly supported the proposal, put forward by Jamaica at the eighteenth session of the General Assembly, that the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be celebrated in an appropriate way in 1968 and that efforts to achieve full respect for human rights should be intensified.

While the importance of the work already being done in the field of human rights both by Member States at the national level and in the United Nations and the agencies connected with it is recognized, there is clearly a need to review the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration in 1948, to evaluate the methods used so far and to consider the advisability of modifying them or adopting new ones if necessary. The Republic of Argentina therefore welcomes the idea of convening, in 1968, an international conference of government representatives to consider these matters. A conference would be better than a special session of the General Assembly, as the former would enable States which are not Members of the United Nations but are members of the specialized agencies to participate, thus bringing the representation closer to the universality which should characterize a meeting of this kind. If the 1968 conference is to be really fruitful, however, it must be organized on a strictly technical basis, due account being taken of the actual coexistence of different political and social systems and the possibilities of

international co-operation, and its terms of reference must be adjusted to the ultimate purpose of promoting, more than hitherto, efforts to ensure full respect for human rights throughout the world. It is also clear that adequate preparation must be made for the conference through the effecting of studies on the problems which it is to consider - such studies to be available to Governments earlier than is customary, in order that they can be considered by the Governments' competent bodies. The preparation of these studies or reports should be entrusted to the Secretariat and to groups of experts selected for their competence and as representatives of the different legal systems. It would certainly be useful to set up a Preparatory Committee consisting of representatives of Member States, as has been done for other important conferences.

As for the measures and activities to be undertaken in 1968, the Republic of Argentina finds acceptable the suggestion made in paragraph 12 of document ST/SG/AC.5/3 - namely, that the International Year for Human Rights "should be calculated to bring home to all the people the breadth of the concept of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all its aspects" and that the celebrations should be such as to dramatize the deeper meaning of individual liberty and illustrate how narrow is the dividing line between the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and an effective denial of those rights.

The question of drawing up a list of subjects on which States and organizations would concentrare their attention during the Year presents certain difficulties. A long list with a great variety of subjects might meet different points of view; nevertheless, we think that it would be preferable for States and organizations to concentrate in 1968 on a few subjects carefully selected by the Committee, such as: equality before the law, the elimination of discrimination, the rights of the child and the family, and the advancement of the legal and social status of women. In addition, consideration should be given to the possibility of holding regional seminars in 1968 on the subjects selected, to coincide with the national activities in the same area.

As to measures for the implementation of the rights and freedoms enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, since the General Assembly will be discussing this problem at its next session when it considers the measures of implementation of the Covenants on Human Rights, no recommendation can be made on the subject until it is known what results have there been achieved.

The observances and activities to be carried out during 1968 and on Human Rights Day in that year by States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, as suggested in paragraphs 20 to 27 of document ST/SG/AC.5/3, are acceptable as a general guide.

The idea of intensifying efforts in the field of human rights up to 1968, with a view to making more progress towards full observance of these rights, has the support of the Argentine Government. The objectives to be achieved during that period, as proposed in paragraph 40 of document ST/SG/AC.5/3, seem to reflect the importance and urgency of solving the problems at issue, and are acceptable. These objectives should be formulated as follows: 1. The elimination of slavery (including, of necessity, the institutions and practices similar to slavery), the slave trade and forced labour; 2. The elimination of all forms of discrimination; 3. The elimination of colonialism.

As to the means whereby these objectives can be attained, the Argentine Government feels that the General Assembly should recommend the ratification of certain conventions and the conclusion of others now in preparation, as provided for in resolution 6 (XX) of the Commission on Human Rights. On the national plane, the most appropriate means of promoting full respect for human rights are legislation, education and the dissemination of principles through the usual channels. The machinery to be adopted (improvement of national legislation, establishment of committees, etc.) should, however, be a matter for States to decide, in accordance with their own political and administrative systems.

CANADA

/Original: English/
12 August 1964

The Canadian Government has considered carefully the views expressed so far in the Committee in support of a special international conference on human rights. It would appear from the Committee's records that although some representatives on the Committee expressed objections to the convening of a special conference in 1968, more representatives were of the view that a special international conference would be useful. Canada would have no objection to the convening of a special

international conference provided it can be shown that this would be the most practical method to ensure the effective observance of human rights throughout the world.

Before voting in favour of holding such a conference the Committee should be satisfied that it will concentrate on attainable and specific objectives, and that Governments will send to the conference qualified experts who are normally involved in work relating to the recognition of human rights within their respective countries. Before deciding this question the Committee should have before it a proposed agenda or list of heads of subjects contemplated for discussion at the conference. It would also be necessary to have a detailed statement of the financial implications of calling a special conference, as well as some idea of the proposed working methods of the conference. As a major contributor to the United Nations regular budget, Canada is anxious to ensure that the maximum progress possible in the recognition of human rights is obtained for the expenditures incurred. It would only be possible after all this information is available to decide whether the desired objectives will be better achieved through a special international conference or through perhaps a combination of special regional seminars on human rights held in conjunction with a review and evaluation of human rights in the Third Committee at a regular session of the General Assembly in 1968. In the Canadian view the overriding criterion is the impact which the proposed discussions on human rights in 1968 would have on the ordinary individual who, more than anyone else, needs to be made conscious of his basic human rights.

Participation in Programme of Measures and Activities

The specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations should be associated closely with the preparation and implementation of the various projects proposed during Human Rights Year. The non-governmental organizations are often particularly close to the general public and should have an important role to play in the celebrations dramatizing the meaning of human rights.

Calendar of Activities

It is not considered advisable only to select certain human rights for emphasis during one or two months of the Human Rights Year. No selected list of

human rights could take into account the wide range of differences in the recognition throughout the world of the various human rights. One country may more fully recognize some human rights but not others, while conditions in other countries might call for a different emphasis. The discussions in the Committee have shown that it will be almost impossible to emphasize some but not all of the twenty-nine human rights mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Measures of Implementation

The Canadian Government has on several different occasions in the General Assembly supported proposals for effective implementation measures for the rights and freedoms which are the subject of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Canada agrees with the hope expressed by the members of the Bureau of the Committee that by the beginning of the Human Rights Year the draft Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will contain effective implementation clauses. There would not seem to be any point, therefore, in the Committee discussing this problem at this stage. This subject need not be considered in the context of plans for the International Year for Human Rights until it is known what progress has been achieved on the matter after the twenty-first regular session of the General Assembly.

Observances to be Held During Human Rights Year

The suggested observances described in paragraphs 20 to 25 of Working Paper ST/SG/AC.5/3 are useful. It is difficult to agree however with the suggestion in paragraph 24 (e) that Governments consider the proclamation of Human Rights Year as a year of amnesty for prisoners. In countries where individuals are committed to prison under due process of law there is little connexion between the recognition of their human rights and measures of clemency or amnesty.

The role of incentives in achieving human rights is important and this is reflected in the lists of proposed observances. The granting of special honours and awards during Human Rights Year might be particularly useful in mobilizing the desire to excel, but the proposals contained in sub-paragraphs 25 (f) and 26 (d) should be carefully co-ordinated. The possibility might be examined of awarding one major international prize only, described as the Human Rights Prize, along the lines of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Additional Goals or Objectives

The Canadian Government agrees with the views expressed in paragraph 41 of the Working Paper and especially with the suggested complementary world-wide programme of education designed to produce new thinking on the part of many people in regard to human rights. As was mentioned in the Committee by the Philippines and Nigerian representatives, the proposed United Nations Training and Research Institute might contribute to the world-wide programme of education. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development might also play a useful part in the programme.

COSTA RICA

[Original: Spanish]
8 September 1964

As Costa Rica is a member of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights, the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs will naturally act upon the view expressed by its delegation in the Committee.

Both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica wish to express once more their pleasure at having contributed to the realization, in the Commission on Human Rights, of the need to hold an International Conference to review the progress made in the field of human rights and to define new work targets in this sphere, which is of such great importance to mankind. We are convinced that a fine programme of measures and activities to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will emerge from the Committee.

ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]
14 August 1964

In general, the Government of Ecuador believes that one method of achieving the objectives of the International Year for Human Rights would be to intensify

efforts aimed at guaranteeing the effective protection of human rights in every sphere and at perfecting the legal processes whereby remedy may be obtained when such rights have been violated. Action by States and international bodies in this connexion should include all political and social measures which can promote the well-being of the individual, both as a private person and as a member of the community, in the fields of social security, labour, education, etc. To this end, special attention should be given to the adoption of fair taxation systems and the more equitable distribution of land.

As for the work programmes of the United Nations in the field of human rights, the Government of Ecuador advocates that these plans be directed along more effective and practical lines. For example, the processing and the examination of petitions and claims submitted to the Commission on Human Rights are at present unsatisfactory. It would be desirable to broaden the scope of the Commission's terms of reference by empowering it to conduct inquiries as to the truth of facts complained of.

On the same line of reasoning, the Government of Ecuador suggests that in the programmes for bursaries for research in the broad field of human rights special preference should be given to candidates wishing to make a study of existing agencies which are at present active in this important matter, such as the European Commission of Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights

At the same time, the Government of Ecuador considers that it would be advisable to promote a more intensive study of the institutions for the protection of human rights which have been set up under the inter-American system. For this purpose it would be desirable to establish more contact in this field between the agencies of the United Nations and those of the Organization of American States.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

[Original: English]
8 September 1964

The Secretary-General should endeavour that the efforts of the United Nations for a codification of human rights result, not later than 1968, in a convention

concerning the establishment of an international authority for the protection of human rights. This authority should safeguard the human rights as guaranteed by national law in each case as long as there does not exist an international agreement on material human rights.

In all States that are Members of the United Nations or its specialized agencies the year 1968 should be used for the preparation of an agreement regarding also material human rights within the framework of the United Nations. For this purpose, during 1968 in all these States an increased number of meetings, seminars and lectures dealing with the basic significance of a practical realization of human rights should be held, and corresponding publications should be issued. In order to concentrate and deepen these efforts it is suggested that each month in 1968 should be dedicated to a special human right or group of human rights.

The Federal Republic of Germany intends to report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1968 on the codification and safeguarding of human rights in the Federal Republic of Germany as well as on her participation in the international observation of human rights to which it has subscribed by becoming a member of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 4 November 1950.

GREECE

[Original: English]
7 September 1964

The Royal Greek Government is agreeable to the suggestions contained in the working paper of the Committee on the International Year of Human Rights for the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the celebration of the Year.

JORDAN

[Original: English]
11 September 1964

Upon thorough examination and evaluation, the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan found the views and proposals put forward in the working paper of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights circulated in document ST/SG/AC.5/3 quite comprehensive in expressing the basic views and proposals of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the subject.

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan wishes, furthermore, to stress two points which it deems very worthy of observing and studying during the International Year for Human Rights namely, the proposal to make it compulsory on all Member States of the United Nations to introduce into their respective secondary schooling system, courses dealing with the principles and provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and (2) to request all Member States to review and scrutinize in good faith their respective laws and regulations for the purpose of eliminating all legislation which violates the letter and spirit of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

SENEGAL

[Original: French]
9 September 1964

The Government of Senegal has no observations to make, at this time, on the subject of the International Year for Human Rights.

PART II

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

[Original: English]
8 September 1964

The International Telecommunication Union wishes "to be associated with any manifestation which may be organized by the members of the United Nations family" in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]
15 September 1964

General

In accordance with resolution 1961 (XVIII), adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, particularly paragraph 3, UNESCO is prepared to offer all possible assistance to the Commission on Human Rights in the preparation of the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken during the International Year for Human Rights.

UNESCO's own main task in the field of human rights has two different but inter-linked aspects:

(i) to promote through the whole of its programme the achievement of those human rights and fundamental freedoms inscribed in the Universal Declaration which are in the Organization's particular domain; and

(ii) to promote, through education and public information, greater understanding and knowledge of the Universal Declaration.

It should be noted that the International Year for Human Rights (1968) will be preceded by International Co-operation Year (1965) and UNESCO's twentieth anniversary (1966) and that all three dates fall within the United Nations

Development Decade. A certain care would therefore be needed to avoid overlapping of effort in the commemoration of these diverse anniversaries, in view of the close relationship of the relevant programmes and activities. On the other hand, one event can redound to the benefit of the others, as the Director-General of UNESCO has observed in a document (13/C/PRG/6) concerning the commemoration of the organization's twentieth anniversary, which has been prepared for the forthcoming thirteenth session of the General Conference.

The comments hereunder bear upon the working paper by the Chairman of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights (document ST/SG/AC.5/3) and follow the sequence of that document.

Programmes of Measures and Activities to be Carried Out during Human Rights Year

(a) Calendar of Activities

Attention is drawn to the difficulty presented by the drawing up of a specific "calendar", taking into account the varying climatic conditions, school and academic years, holiday seasons and national celebrations in Member States. A similar view has already been registered with regard to the proposed calendar for International Co-operation Year.

(b) Subjects

It will be evident that the Declaration in its entirety should be the first priority for commemorative activities. At the same time, it may be necessary, on occasion, to emphasize certain of the rights embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For UNESCO, it will be logical to recommend to Member States a more extensive treatment of article 26 concerning "the right to education", and to suggest that special attention should be paid to the fight against illiteracy. When certain individual rights are singled out, UNESCO would also recommend that due regard be paid to "the right to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits" (article 27).

Freedom of information, it is noted, heads the tentative list of subjects which have been suggested for priority in commemorative activities. Accordingly,

consideration might be given by the United Nations and UNESCO to the convening, in 1968, of a world conference on freedom of information. Such a conference, which would be at once commemorative of the Universal Declaration and the Conference on Freedom of Information held by the United Nations at Geneva in 1948, might review the technological and other advances in this field in the intervening twenty years.

Observances by Inter-governmental Organizations

(a) The Director-General is prepared to convene a commemorative ceremony at UNESCO headquarters on 10 December 1968, commensurate with the importance of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration.

(b) Special articles will appear in UNESCO publications, particularly the UNESCO Courier, and radio programmes will be prepared.

(c) Consideration will be given to the possibility of organizing, under UNESCO's auspices, a round-table discussion in which leading personalities in the field of education, science and culture would review significant developments in the field of human rights during the preceding twenty years.

(d) It may prove to be impracticable for UNESCO itself to organize "musical, dramatic or artistic works which are illustrative of the themes of human rights and fundamental freedoms". However, the Organization will seek to encourage Member States, and in particular National Commissions for UNESCO, as well as such organizations as the International Music Council and the International Theatre Institute, to arrange for the performance and production of works illustrating these themes.

(e) With regard to the production of commemorative stamp issues, it is suggested that all such issues be concentrated on 10 December 1968, leaving it open, however, to postal administrations to choose alternative dates if they wish.

International Conference on Human Rights in 1968

It is noted that some thought has been given by the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights to the question whether an international conference on human rights in 1968 would provide an effective medium or forum for an international review in this field. If such a conference should be convened, UNESCO would be ready to contribute to the review of those rights with which the organization is particularly concerned.

National Advisory Committees

In invitations sent to Governments of Member States concerning the establishment of advisory committees on their national legislation affecting human rights, reference should be made to UNESCO National Commissions, many of which are active in this field.

Education to Promote Respect for and Observance of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

UNESCO has a continuing programme designed to promote "universal respect for human rights and eradication of racial prejudices". The long-term aim of its activities under this heading is to extend the organization's scientific purview to the wider aspects of human rights as a whole and as defined in the Universal Declaration. Certain of these activities, even prior to 1968, may prove to contribute to the aims of the International Year for Human Rights and particularly to a better understanding of the prerequisites for achievement of the rights proclaimed in the Declaration. For example, it is foreseen that in 1965 an international round-table meeting will be convened to examine the meaning and role of the concepts and aims covered by the term "human rights" and their effects on the status accorded to man in contemporary society. A further example is an international meeting of experts, contemplated for 1966, and following upon a preparatory meeting in 1964, to prepare a declaration on race and racial prejudice.

Another continuing feature of UNESCO's programme is the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education. A statement of action taken by Member States to give effect to these two international instruments might be circulated widely in conjunction with the International Year for Human Rights. Elements for the statement may be forthcoming as part of a system of submission and examination of periodic reports by Member States on measures taken to implement the Convention and Recommendation. Moreover, the Conciliation and Good Offices Commission, provided for under the Protocol to the Convention, is expected to be established by 1968. Thus it may be hoped that 1968 will coincide with the effective operation of the two principal methods for ensuring the observance by Member States of the obligations assumed under the Convention and Recommendation.

Other international instruments adopted under UNESCO's auspices also promote the achievement of human rights. Mention may be made in particular of those designed to further the aims of article 27 of the Declaration concerning the right to culture, e.g. the Universal Copyright Convention; the Convention on Neighbouring Rights, drawn up in conjunction with the International Labour Organisation and the Berne Union; and the Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property. It may be that 1968 will provide a good occasion for disseminating an account of results achieved by the organization in the performance of its constitutional responsibilities for the international regulation of issues within the purview of the Universal Declaration.

Teaching about human rights has long been a UNESCO objective, reflected in the organization's seminars for teachers and in its publications. In addition, secondary schools and teacher training institutions have been encouraged to participate in an Associated Schools Project in Education for International Understanding, in which one of the main themes of study is human rights. Plans are being developed for the provision of expert services designed ultimately to introduce teaching about human rights into curricula at the primary, secondary and teacher training levels of education. All of these activities may secure added impetus by reference to the 1968 commemoration.

Illustrative of specific projects which might be correlated with the International Year is the possibility of producing for distribution in 1968 a publication containing practical suggestions for teachers on training about human rights. Similarly, a kit of practical teaching aids might be prepared, possibly in collaboration with other interested agencies of the United Nations system. Another project might be the organization by interested National Commissions for UNESCO of essay and poster contests for school children on the theme of human rights. In the field of higher education, universities may be encouraged to organize special lectures and seminars in 1968.

A History of the Declaration

Considerable interest is evinced in the proposal for publication, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a history of the Universal Declaration. It is felt that UNESCO might be able to contribute usefully to the planning and preparation of such a work.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

[Original: French]
11 September 1964

I should like to emphasize that UPU works unceasingly for the achievement of the aims fixed in its constitutive Acts and strives constantly to promote the development of the international postal service. It is guided in its international activities by the basic principles laid down at its inception, among which I should like to draw particular attention to the principle that correspondence is not subject to seizure and is inviolable. Freedom of transit and respect for correspondence are sacred principles which are basic to the postal service. This unquestionably helps to strengthen individual freedoms and thus to promote the exercise of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights.

I have carefully studied the programme prepared by the Bureau of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights, which is contained in document ST/SG/AC.5/3 of 25 June 1964.

I have nothing to add to the programme; at most, I would suggest that, in so far as its resources permit, UPU should do the following as its contribution:

- prepare a special message for 1 January 1968;
- publish a special issue of the journal Postal Union, wholly or partly devoted to commemorating the Declaration of Human Rights;
- transmit to the member countries of UPU such resolution as the United Nations may adopt regarding the issue of special postage stamps and first-day covers and the use of special cancellations during 1968.

May I further state that our organization will be glad to contribute, in so far as it can, to any activities contemplated in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]
20 August 1964

The World Health Organization is ready to co-operate in the observance of the International Year within the means at its disposal, as our representative indicated to the Committee at its first session. His statement took into account the suggestions contained in the working paper, ST/SG/AC.5/3, as well as the Committee's discussion [see ST/SG/AC.5/SR.3, pp. 11-12].

PART III

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

AFRO-ASIAN ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

[Original: English]
19 August 1964

The Afro-Asian Organisation for Economic Co-operation "will be most willing to co-operate in any appropriate manner to achieve the purposes of the International Year for Human Rights".

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

[Original: English]
15 September 1964

The Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations notes with particular interest resolution 6 (XX) of the Commission on Human Rights, in which the Commission singles out for special consideration by the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights the idea of convening an international conference in 1968 to (i) review the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (ii) evaluate the effectiveness of the methods and techniques used by the United Nations in the field of human rights; and (iii) formulate and prepare a programme of further measures to be taken subsequent to the celebration of Human Rights Year.

We respectfully submit that the convening of such a conference is necessary and desirable and that it holds out the greatest promise of making a lasting contribution to the cause of human rights, as enjoined by the General Assembly in resolution 1961 (XVIII). We believe that the conference idea merits a central place in all planning for the International Human Rights Year, not only as a focus for the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration, but as a measure which corresponds to a vital and urgent need. The United Nations has under the Charter a continuing responsibility for promoting universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. How well and

how effectively this responsibility may be carried out, now and in the future, is a question which cannot be answered without an examination of the objectives of the United Nations human rights programme and an evaluation of the methods and techniques for their achievement.

We respectfully suggest that the agenda of the proposed conference be confined to an examination and evaluation of objectives and procedures and to the elaboration of recommendations for future activities. In the light of experience, it is doubtful whether the United Nations can undertake a review of the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration that would either reflect the reality of the situation or identify particular problems in need of urgent international attention or of special remedial measures. It may be recalled, for example, that one of the purposes of the system of periodic reports is to keep under review the progress made in the field of human rights. Neither this nor other purposes of the periodic reports has been realized for the reason that no procedure has yet been devised which would illuminate the facts reported and those omitted. It is not likely that such or a similar procedure will be evolved in the foreseeable future, without which a global review of progress in the field of human rights would be impractical.

The emphasis of the proposed conference must be on objectives and on methods and techniques. It is a fact, for example, that when in 1947 the United Nations committed itself to the idea of an International Bill of Human Rights consisting of a declaration, a convention and measures of implementation, it defined its objective as the achievement of international protection of human rights. Time and circumstances have conspired to undermine the unity of the International Bill and to obscure its objective, with the resultant dichotomy between its component parts. The paths of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the draft international covenants on human rights have diverged sharply, as their aims and goals have developed separately and independently. This has had a decisive influence on the evolution of the United Nations human rights programme, which has been reduced largely to activities of an expository nature relating to the provisions in the Universal Declaration. There has been very little in those activities in direct or indirect support of the objective of the International Bill, in the sense of preparing the ground for wider understanding and acceptance of the

idea of international protection of human rights. It is respectfully submitted that the proposed conference could make no greater contribution to the cause of human rights of a lasting nature than to restore the unity of the International Bill of Human Rights and the objective it embodies.

Obviously, the clearer the goals and objectives of the United Nations human rights programme are stated, the greater will be the opportunity of evaluating the validity and effectiveness of the methods and techniques employed to achieve them. It is reasonable to assume that a number of activities in which the United Nations has engaged over the years would have found no place in a programme energized and directed by specific goals and objectives, and that other activities now excluded would have enjoyed high priority. It may be assumed, for example, that if the objective of the United Nations human rights programme were, specifically, to prepare the nations for the acceptance of international protection of human rights, much of the effort would be devoted to an exploration of the issues and problems associated with the idea. Also, the efforts of the United Nations towards reducing existing disparities in legislation, practice, policy and procedure in respect to human rights, would find a specific target.

Any evaluation of United Nations methods and techniques in the field of human rights must direct its attention to the question of the educational role of the world Organization. It is respectfully suggested that the proposed conference seek, in this connexion, ways and means of enlisting the co-operation of universities, colleges and other educational institutions, learned societies and foundations in the cause of human rights and of inducing them to develop and pursue programmes of study and research covering various phases of human rights. This question has been raised on a number of occasions in the United Nations and is the subject of a resolution of the Economic and Social Council adopted in August 1963. It is a matter of immediate concern to the United Nations in connexion with its continuing responsibility for promoting human rights and calls for the establishment of a special section in the Human Rights Division to develop the necessary liaison.

Regarding the particulars of future activities, their determination must await the outcome of the examination of objectives and the evaluation of methods and techniques. But there are at least two areas of activity in which the United Nations might operate fruitfully and which do not necessarily depend on the

outcome of the conference's examination and evaluation. First, without prejudice to the international covenants and the measures for their implementation, is the need of exploring and developing the executive capacity of the United Nations in dealing with concrete human rights situations. The United Nations has on several occasions in recent years exercised executive powers in situations which are patently of a human rights character, even though its intervention has been carried out under different guises. We respectfully submit that it is in the best interests of the United Nations to give careful and serious consideration to the possibility of developing a permanent machinery for dealing with human rights situations as a matter of course, rather than to resort to improvisations under pressure of events, with all its incalculable legal and political consequences.

Second, heretofore the United Nations has concentrated largely on setting standards of human rights and exhorting Member States to abide by the ideals of the Universal Declaration. Rarely, if ever, did the United Nations recommend to Member States the adoption of procedures calculated to guarantee that the rights and freedoms vouchsafed to their citizens were better safeguarded. Perhaps the time has come for the United Nations to weigh the possibility of encouraging the universal acceptance of the idea embodied in the office of Ombudsman, which has been the subject of discussion at several seminars on human rights held in recent years under the Advisory Services Programme.

Finally, the proposed conference might usefully address itself to the problem of co-ordination of the human rights activities within the United Nations system. Such co-ordination is urgently needed to harmonize the policies and actions of the various organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in the human rights area, and to guide them towards common ends. The approach to human rights issues by the General Assembly varies considerably from that of the Economic and Social Council, just as the treatment of human rights problems by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, or by the Commission on the Status of Women, differs from that of the Commission on Human Rights. While it is true that each of these organs is governed by its own rules, which derive largely from its particular functions and political complexion, they are all subject to the same Charter. Yet the interaction among them is barely perceptible, and the absence of an integer to give unity to their various

activities and establish precedents is striking. This lack of co-ordination is perhaps one of the main reasons why the most important issues of human rights which arise in the United Nations are almost invariably dealt with outside the context of the official human rights programme.

In conclusion, the CCJO desires to state that it will avail itself of forthcoming opportunities which may be afforded to the non-governmental organizations to make additional comments and suggestions in connexion with the planning of the Human Rights Year.

COORDINATING BOARD OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

[Original: English]
9 September 1964

In our judgement any programme in connexion with that Year should concentrate, as far as possible, on practical measures calculated to help implement the principles laid down in the Universal Declaration. Demonstrations of a purely commemorative character should be reduced to an absolute minimum. With this in view, we wish to make some observations on the proposals contained in parts I to III of the document ST/SG/AC.5/3.

Calendar of activities: The idea not to devote a whole year to human rights in general, but to concentrate on one particular aspect of human rights during a shorter period (of say one month), seems in our view most desirable, provided that such a shorter period would be devoted to the taking of practical measures. If during the month in question the Governments concerned (or the non-governmental organizations) would merely arrange for lectures, radio or television programmes, etc., dealing with that aspect of human rights, little would be gained. For Governments to review their domestic legislation and the practices within their society and to give publicity to the extent to which the right or freedom has been secured would also be of minor importance. What is important is to use the Year (or the particular month) to take practical steps to secure the rights where they may not exist or where they can be strengthened. The World Refugee Year was an outstanding success because Governments, and particularly the National Committees (composed of individuals and non-governmental organizations), did not

confine themselves to preaching about the plight of the refugees but adopted concrete and practical projects to aid some particular group of refugees. The Freedom from Hunger Campaign follows the same principle. The International Year for Human Rights will be effective only if it does likewise.

We, therefore, suggest that the Committee should not select some twelve fundamental rights, each to be dealt with during one month in all countries, but should rather propose a much longer list of rights. Each Government (and the national non-governmental organizations as well) would select from that list the twelve most important rights and freedoms, which are not yet fully developed or secured in their particular country, and devote one month to each of those rights. The twelve rights referred to in paragraph 14 of the Working Paper are certainly of the greatest importance, but fortunately there are many States of the world where a number of these rights are secure. To talk of those rights in those countries for an entire month would therefore be without practical value and would tend to bore the people. If, on the other hand, different rights in different countries in different months were selected, conformity might suffer but human rights might gain - and that is the important point. Moreover, if only twelve rights were selected for the entire world, a number of very important rights, mentioned in the Universal Declaration, would be omitted altogether. Paragraph 14 of the Working Paper, for instance, does not refer to the right of everyone to have a nationality, the right of asylum, and the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own. These three rights are as yet secure only in a very limited number of countries (the Convention for the Reduction of Statelessness is not yet in force for lack of ratifications). It seems desirable that Governments or national committees of non-governmental organizations in countries where some of the twelve rights referred to in paragraph 14 are secure, should be able to choose the three above-mentioned rights (or others) for special treatment during one of the months of the Year.

CBJO welcomes most heartily the suggestions in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Working Paper, dealing with the question of the implementation of human rights. Indeed, the International Year for Human Rights could hardly be used for a better purpose than to elaborate a system of implementing human rights internationally, regionally and nationally, through the establishment of an effective machinery.

We welcome particularly the suggestion that individuals and recognized non-governmental organizations should be given the right to submit complaints of violations of human rights to the international, regional or national organs charged with the implementation of international instruments of human rights. We wish, however, to add that competent non-governmental organizations should also be given a role where the implementation machinery takes the form of a reporting system. The well established practice of the ILO, where the non-governmental members of the tripartite United Nations specialized agency play a leading part in evaluating the report of the experts, who regularly study the application of ILO conventions and recommendations, could be taken as a basis.

CBJO would not object to any of the other activities suggested for inter-governmental organizations, for Member States and for non-governmental organizations, as proposed in paragraphs 19-27 of the working paper. However, most of these suggestions are of a demonstrative character only and are hardly calculated to lead to any immediate practical results. There is the danger that intergovernmental organizations, States and non-governmental organizations might think they have done enough, if they carry out some of the demonstrative or ceremonial activities, while in fact these activities would be useful only if supplemented by practical measures.

A few of the suggestions in these paragraphs could lead to practical results in the foreseeable future, particularly the following:

Paragraph 24 (b) "That Governments seize the opportunity of the International Year for Human Rights to redouble their efforts to bring about the signature and ratification or acceptance in any other form of existing international conventions or treaties designed to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in particular spheres." (We are thinking here in particular of the Genocide Convention, the Convention on the Status of Refugees, the Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons, the Conventions on the Reduction of Statelessness, the ILO Convention on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation, the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education and its Protocol);

Paragraph 24 (d) "That Governments consider entrusting the organization of the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights to an existing institution or an ad hoc committee set up for this purpose" - providing that such an institution or committee should be charged with proposing practical projects

following the example of National Committees for the World Refugee Year or the Freedom from Hunger campaign;

Paragraph 24 (e) "That Governments consider the proclamation of the International Year for Human Rights as a year of amnesty and other measures of clemency to political or other prisoners";

Paragraph 25 (b) "Governments might wish to encourage, as appropriate, schools and universities to hold special meetings on Human Rights Year and to organize special courses or seminars on human rights." This might help in educating the youth as to the importance of human rights;

Paragraph 26 (f) "To encourage local communities to establish a list of questions with a view to investigating and sounding out public opinion as to the communities' effectiveness in promoting the principles of the Declaration."

The remainder of the suggestions in the paragraphs 19-27 of the Working Paper while welcome in themselves are not likely to have great practical results and - in case of financial implications - ought not to be given a high priority.

CBJO expresses strong doubts as to whether an international conference on human rights would prove an effective means of furthering the progress of human rights. Simply to review the progress hitherto achieved in the human rights field, in our view, would not be productive unless, at the same time, the lack of progress or even retrogression in certain areas of the world were probed and laid bare. And, if that were done, mutual recrimination would ensue, hardly conducive either to peace or to human rights. The evaluation of the effectiveness of techniques currently in use would be more useful, but a large international conference with hundreds of delegates and set speeches would not be a suitable forum. Such an evaluation might be better done by a small group of experts, and on a regional basis. Indeed, such an evaluation would be a suitable subject for regional seminars within the scope of advisory services, but not for an international conference. The preparation of a programme for future activities in the human rights field could be discussed much more effectively in a smaller forum than in a large-scale conference. A large conference could either hold a debate on human rights in general, which is unlikely to lead to any practical results or would have to be devoted to a limited special subject. Only in the latter case might practical results follow. On the other hand, a conference on a limited subject would hardly make a great impact on world public opinion.

In our view, a great international conference would be useful only in one particular contingency: namely, in the case that the International Covenants on Human Rights should have been completed or practically completed by the General Assembly. Then an international conference could be the solemn occasion of finalizing and possibly signing those conventions and giving them the publicity needed to make a real impact. In all other cases, a conference might raise unfounded hopes and lead to disappointment and discouragement if no practical results follow. As a consequence, the cause of human rights would not benefit, but suffer.

With regard to part III of the working paper (paragraphs 38-50), CBJO wishes to state that it fully endorses all the suggestions and proposals contained in that part, just as it is in full agreement with the resolution "Designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights" adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-seventh session. We wish to add that CBJO in co-operation with other non-governmental organizations has already embarked upon a programme oriented to encouraging Governments in those countries where we have constituents, to ratify those international human rights conventions which they have not, as yet, ratified. We are determined to continue this endeavour until 1968 and, if need be, after 1968.

CBJO is particularly interested in the chapter of the working paper headed "Education to promote respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms." While endorsing fully the sentiments expressed in this chapter we would like to add the following practical suggestions:

(a) That all educational institutions be urged to give recognition to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its objectives and should integrate them into the existing curriculum. Thus, elementary and high school curricula should be called upon to include the study of the Universal Declaration in such subjects as social studies and history. In addition, educational institutions might be urged to incorporate the study of prejudice, discrimination, minority rights and freedom into such curriculum courses as social problems, civics and history. On the college and university level, the study of prejudice and discrimination could be integrated into such courses as psychology, sociology, history, political science and Government.

We particularly recommend that emphasis be given to urging the adoption of such proposals in institutions of teacher education. Surveys in a number of countries have indicated that very little is being done to prepare teachers to teach about the problems concerning human rights, minority groups, prejudice and discrimination.

(b) Formal instruction in the schools, however, is not the only avenue of education. Many non-governmental agencies having youth and adult programmes engage in educational activities. We would suggest that these agencies be requested to include in their educational programmes on a continuing basis a recognition of the Universal Declaration and the related matters of prejudice, discrimination and minority groups.

(c) Among the obstacles in the path of international understanding and of understanding of human rights generally, are the differences of viewpoints which appear in the history textbooks that are used in various nations. We would suggest that an international study of textbooks be launched. Such a study might examine the problems arising from such differences and propose methods for solving them.

(d) There is a pressing need for additional research on human rights and on the universality of prejudice and discrimination. We suggest, therefore, that appropriate agencies such as foundations, universities and other institutions be asked to mark the celebration of International Human Rights Year by inaugurating research on selected aspects of human rights. The international exchange of information on research should be encouraged. A summary of all research in this field is now prepared annually in the United States and could be made available. The proposed international exchange of research ideas, designs and conclusions would encourage social scientists in various countries to undertake additional studies, should help improve techniques, and should aid in the education process generally.

In sum, we strongly believe that the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should not be an end in itself. The celebration should be used to begin a process, especially in education, which would continue indefinitely. Specifically, we suggest that the study of the Universal Declaration, human rights and related problems of prejudice and discrimination be built into the curricula and programme of schools, institutions and agencies, both public and private.

INTERNATIONAL ABOLITIONIST FEDERATION

/Original: Fren
4 September 19

One of the main purposes of IAF is to eliminate the exploitation of the prostitution of others and particularly any interference with the freedom of pe engaging in prostitution, whether they are forced to do so by pimps, by brothel keepers or by traffickers in persons.

The 1949 United Nations General Assembly adopted in this matter an excelle convention which, if universally applied, would put an end to this type of interference with personal freedom: the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

Only a little more than thirty States have ratified or acceded to this Convention.

Under item (iii) - "to formulate and prepare a programme of further measur to be taken subsequent to the celebration of Human Rights Year"- for the International Conference of 1968 proposed in connexion with the celebration of the Year, we should like the Conference to have on its agenda the consideration of means to achieve a speedy and substantial increase in the number of States bound by the United Nations conventions on human rights, and particularly by th Convention mentioned above.

WORLD CONFEDERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION

/Original: Englis
14 September 196

WCOTP has consistently worked for the cause of human rights through educat including a special feature in Education Panorama on the occasion of the fiftee anniversary of the Declaration. We believe firmly that the public schools prov one of the major channels for the promotion of human rights and will continue work for this cause at all times.

In relation to the plans for 1968 being prepared by your Committee on the International Year for Human Rights, we would urge that special emphasis be pla

on the right to education as the foundation on which other rights can be built. In fact, I would suggest that other rights are diminished without the right to an education of quality and depth.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS

[Original: French]
20 August 1964

If the preparation of a draft "Code of police ethics (or duties)" by IFSPO would be considered a suitable contribution to the cause of human rights as understood by the United Nations General Assembly, we could submit a programme of work and discuss the conditions for its execution with your Division.

UNIVERSAL ESPERANTO ASSOCIATION

[Original: English]
28 August 1964

We do think it a good idea to hold a special International Conference in 1968 in order to discuss the questions mentioned in your letter. Furthermore, we consider that it would be useful to organize throughout the whole of 1968 an especially intensive publicity campaign concerning the Universal Declaration, through the media of the press, radio and television, lectures (particularly in schools and universities), international seminars and discussion groups. Such a campaign should reach its climax on the actual date of the twentieth anniversary.

It is our opinion that in this vast programme NGO's could and should play an outstanding role. Our Association will most certainly take part, both directly and through its national affiliates, local societies and specialized organizations. Our Association would also wish to take part in the work of the said International Conference, should this idea be realized.